REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Description of Amendments

Claim 34 is currently amended to include the word "in" that was inadvertently omitted from the prior response. No new matter is introduced. Claims 34-51 remain pending.

Reconsideration and removal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 34-38, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5.947,975 ("Kikuchi"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 34

Kikuchi fails to expressly or inherently describe "wherein the elastic backing support is in a relaxed state when the lens holder is in the open position, and wherein the elastic backing support is elastically deformed when the lens holder is in the closed position," as recited in claim 34.

The Office states that Kikuchi discloses "a lens holder including two reinforced peripheral regions (5a, 5b), [a] backing support (5) formed of plastic having elasticity (column 7, lines 4-5)" (Office Action at 2). As best understood, the Office equates the bottom part of Kikuchi's enclosing member (5) with the "backing support" of claim 34. The bottom part of the enclosing member (5) is shown in Kikuchi FIGS. 14 and 15, which are reproduced below with Applicant's notations in boxes.

FIG. 14

5a

7

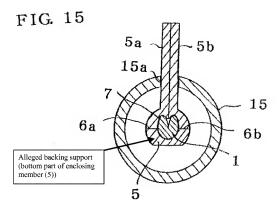
1

5b

Alleged passage (region to be enclosed by the enclosing member (5))

6a

Alleged passage (region to be enclosing member (5))



FIGS. 14 and 15 above show the enclosing member (5) opened and closed, respectively. There is no indication in FIGS. 14 and 15 or anywhere else in *Kikuchi* that the bottom part of the enclosing member (5) "is in a relaxed state" when the enclosing member (5) is opened (FIG. 14), or that the enclosing member (5) "is elastically deformed" when the enclosing member (5) is closed (FIG. 15). Therefore, the bottom part of the enclosing member (5) fails to meet the above-quoted elements for the "backing support" of claim 34.

Kikuchi fails to anticipate claim 34 even if the Office were to assert that the claimed "backing portion" corresponds to the bottom part of the enclosing member (5) together with the hinges (6a, 6b). There is no indication in FIGS. 14 and 15 that any one of the hinges (6a, 6b) "is in a relaxed state" when the enclosing member (5) is opened (FIG. 14), or that any one of the hinges (6a, 6b) "is elastically deformed" when the enclosing member (5) is closed (FIG. 15). Therefore, the bottom part of the enclosing member (5) with any one of the hinges (6a, 6b) fails to meet the above-quoted elements for the "backing support" of claim 34.

The Office relies on Kikuchi's disclosure that the "enclosing member 5 is preferably formed from a plastic having elasticity" (col. 7, lines 4 & 5). However, this disclosure fails

to meet the above-quoted elements of claim 34. There is no teaching that any portion of the enclosing member (5) is in a relaxed or deformed state when opened or closed.

Applicant reminds the Office that "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference" (MPEP §2131). Furthermore, "[t]o establish inherency, the extrinsic evidence must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is necessarily present in the thing described in the reference, and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill" (MPEP §2112, IV) (emphasis added). Here, the evidence relied upon by the Office (col. 7, lines 4 & 5) does not make clear that the above-quoted elements for the backing support in claim 34 are necessarily present in the Kikuchi device.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 34 is patentably allowable over Kikuchi.

Claims 38 and 46

Kikuchi fails to inherently or expressly describe "a <u>spherical</u> depression in the elastic backing support," as recited in claims 38 and 46.

As explained above for claim 34, the Office equates the bottom part of the enclosing member (5) with the claimed "backing support." There is no inherent or express description in *Kikuchi* of a spherical depression in any part of the enclosing member (5). The Office cites *Kikuchi* FIG. 15, but no spherical depression is shown. Applicant notes that "[i]nherency ... may not be established by probabilities or possibilities..." (MPEP §2112). The Office's assertion of the existence of a spherical depression in the *Kikuchi* device amounts to speculation and fails to meet the burden of proof for inherency.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 38 and 46 are patentably allowable over *Kikuchi*.

Claim 42

Kikuchi fails to inherently or expressly describe "the passage formed in the closed position of the lens holder has a <u>snail-shaped cross-section at one of the passage's ends</u>," as recited in claim 42.

The Office does not indicate what portion of the *Kikuchi* device corresponds to the "passage" of claim 42.

Even if the Office alleges that the claimed "passage" corresponds to the region enclosed by the enclosing member (5) (see FIG. 14 reproduced above), there is no disclosure in *Kikuchi* of "a snail-shaped cross-section" or spiral at any one of the alleged passage's ends. A "snail-shaped cross-section" refers to a spiral, as snails are known to have a spiral shell (see, e.g., Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary (Anne H. Soukhanov & Kaethe Ellis eds. 1988) at 1099 (copy attached)).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 42 is patentably allowable over *Kikuchi*.

Claims 35-37, 40, 42, 43, 45 and 48

All other claims rejected as anticipated by *Kikuchi* (e.g., claims 35-37, 40, 42, 43, 45 and 48) depend from base claim 34 and, thereby, include all the elements of claim 34, and are patentably allowable over *Kikuchi* for at least the same reasons given above for claim 34.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Kikuchi in view of Hevman

Claims 39, 41 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kikuchi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,810,834 ("Heyman").

Heyman fails to cure the deficiencies of Kikuchi with respect to claim 34, so claim 34 is patentably allowable over Kikuchi in view of Heyman. Claims 39, 41 and 47 depend from base claim 34 and, thereby, include all the elements of claim 34, and are patentably allowable over Kikuchi in view of Heyman for at least the same reasons that claim 34 is patentably allowable.

Kikuchi in view of Buboltz

Claims 44, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kikuchi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,171,241 ("Buboltz").

Buboltz fails to cure the deficiencies of Kikuchi with respect to claim 34, so claim 34 is patentably allowable over Kikuchi in view of Buboltz. Claims 44, 49, and 50 depend from

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base claim 34 and, thereby, include all the elements of claim 34, and are patentably allowable over *Kikuchi* in view of *Buboltz* for at least the same reasons that claim 34 is patentably allowable.

Kikuchi in view of Eagles

Claim 51 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kikuchi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5.616.148 ("Eagles").

Eagles fails to cure the deficiencies of Kikuchi with respect to claim 34, so claim 34 is patentably allowable over Kikuchi in view of Eagles. Claim 51 depends from claim 34, includes all the elements of claim 34, and is patentably allowable over Kikuchi in view of Eagles for at least the same reasons that claim 34 is patentably allowable.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 07-1850.

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Norman Morales Attorney for Applicant Reg. No. 55,463 Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary (Anne H Soukhanov & Kaethe Ellis eds. 1988)

New Riverside University Dictionary

The Riverside Publishing Company

WEBSTER'S II

1

1.2

T. Vist

estrocellulose, which produces little or no smoke, used in projectiles and small artillery rockets. and small artislery rockets.

smok'er (smô'kor) n. 1. One that smokes. 2. A railroad ear in which smoking is permitted. 3. An informal social gathering for

smoke screen n. 1. A mass of dense artificial smoke used to conreal military areas or operations from an enemy. 2. An action or

rea mintary areas or operations from an enemy. 2. An action or satement used to conceal scutual plans of intentions, annoke-stack (molf-visik) in A large chimney or vertical pipe through which combustion apont, pass, and smoke ar discharged, smoke tree in [From the resemblance of the flower clusters to paifs of smoke J tree, Corina obovertus of the southern United States, or C. congraria of Bursais, having plumelike clusters of small velloach flowers.

Smok-ev (smf/ke) n. [From the resemblance of some state tr hats to that of Smokey the Bear, an animal who warns against fires in U.S. Forest Service posters.] Slang. A law-enforcement officer on

emoking car n smores 2. moking gun n. informal. Indisputable evidence or proof, esp. of

emoking jacket n. An evening jacket, often made of a fine fab-nic elaborately trimmed, and usu, worn at home. smoking room n. A room, as in a hotel or private club, set aside

emok-ing-room (sm6'king-room', -room') adj. Marked by inde-

etney: OSCON'S smoke (smoke) smoke (smoke) smoke (smoke) <a href="mailto:smoke and smoke and sm

solice with or as it with studies. I satust to such a such as well as mode of the such as such

deas, [Not smolders \ consister smooter;]. I to hum with little motivated and nutries of the control of the co

-smooth bore' in smooth breathing n. The symbol (') written over some initial wowsh in classical Greek to indicate that they are not aspirated smoothern (smooths) vt. & vt. -ened, -enving, -ens. To make ecome smooth. oothrie also smoothry (smootht) n. Slang. An assured, art-

smoothrie also smoothry was the individual of the internal organ, as of the intestine, hadder, and blood vessels, excludinternal organs, as of the intestine, hadder, and blood vessels, excludinternal organs, as of the intestine, hadder, and blood vessels, excludinternal organs, as of the intestine, hadder, and blood vessels, excludinternal organs, as of the intestine, hadder, and blood vessels, excluding the control of the internal organs, as or one time to the same, many ing the heart, smooth-tongued (smooth-tingd') adj. Speaking in a pleasing,

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#MOGULE TO SMOOTHUL

number of dishets.

Morte (midt) v, pt. A ver, pp. of serre,
morter, dense make; — v. 1. a. To suffices (mother). B. To
morter, dense make; — v. 1. a. To suffices (mother). To confereive (d first) of the exygen necessary for combestions. To condense the experimental of the experime

moul-der (smil'dar) v. & n. ver. of SMOLDER. smudge (smill) v. smudged, smudging, smudges. [ME mogen] —vt. 1. To make duty. 2. To smear ; blur. 3. To fill (a

Shoot ou out th thin th this dout fir urge y young you abuse zh vision o about, item, edible, gallop, circus

planted area) with dense smoke from a smudge pot in order to prevent damage from insects or frost. —vi. 1. To smear, as with dirt, soot, or ink. 2. To be smudged. —n. 1. A blotch: smear. 2. A smoky

son, or ink. 2. To be smudged. — n. 1. A blooch : neser. 2. A mosty of common control of the con

muggling --mug gler n. + syms: smuggle, sootleg, contraband, run v. core meaning : to import or export secretly and illegally <smuggled cocaine from South America>

from South America > mutual from south America > mutual family in [Alteration of smot, stain < ME amorten, to be smirch] 1. a. A particle of dirt. b. A smudge made by soot, smoke, or dirt. 2. Obscenity, 3. a. Any of various plant diseases caused by lung of the order Uniting inslets that result in the formation of black mutual formation of black mutual formation of black mutual formation of the control of th powdery masses of spores on the affected parts. b. A fungus ca a plant disease. —V. smmt-teed, smmt-ting, smmts. —V. I. To blacken or amudge, as with smoke or grime, 2. To affect (a plant) with smmt. 3. To free (e.g., grain) from smmt. 4. To make obscene. —VI. I. To emit smmt. 2. To be or become blackened or smudged: 3. To become affected with smut, as a plant. -smut'ti-ly adv. -smut'ti-ness n -smut'ty adj.

smutch (smutch) vt. smutched, smutching, smutches.

[Perh. alteration of smutched.] To soil or stain. —smutch a. autch'y odj. Sn [< Lat. stannum, tln.] symbol for The

So [c Lat standmum, th.] symbol for The smack (sank), n (Ms mark, a bite c anaken, to bite.] I A hurried or light meal. 2 Food exten between mesis. —vi. smacked, smacking smacks. To car a hurried or light meal. smack bar n. A hunch counter where light meals are served. smarfiele (sank) in. (Orig. smackown). A bit for n horse, consisting of two bar jointed at the center. —vi.—fled, filing, effec. To put on or company levish a small? or control with a snaffle.



smarfu (ml-fov) [S(TUATION) + N(OBMAL) + A(LL) + R(OBLED) + O(T), Slong,—old in a star of complete condition.—ov. -foad; in a star of complete condition.—ov. -foad; in a star of complete condition.—ov. -foad; in a star of the condition of the c

enail (snal) n. [ME < OE snægl.] 1. Any of numerous aquatic or terrestrial mollitisks of the class Gastropoda, with a spiral, coiled shell, a broad retractile foot, and a distinct head. 2. A slow-horing lazy, or Noving lazy, or ish person.

mail-paced (adject) of Moving very dow), friend cocas, witnesses a proper of the suborder Septentic, laving a long period, a A. long, highly feature need were used for cheated furnise period, a A. long, highly feature need were used for cheated furnise period, and the suborder of the subord snake bird (snik'bûrd') n. A long necked, long-billed bird of th

genus Anhinga, as the water turkey.
snake-bite (anak'bit') z. 1. The bite of a snake, 2. Poisoning resulting from the bite of a venomous snake.